

**TOY DISTRICT/DOWNTOWN INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2009
MINUTES**

BOARD MEMBERS

Present: **Ernie Doizaki, Howard Klein, Matt Klein, Larry Rauch, Mark Shinbane, Michael Tansey and Paul Vert.**

Absent: **Richard Gardner, Donald Kanner, Richard Meruelo and Bill Shinbane.**

STAFF: **Herlinda Chico, Raquel King, Estela Lopez and Vicky McCormick, Emilio Zacarias (Universal Protection Service).**

CONSULTANTS: **Ken Coelho, Don Steier and Jessica Whaley.**

GUESTS: **Council District 14 Field Deputy Celina Mancia, Senior Lead Officer Stephen Nichols.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vert called the meeting to order with a quorum at 12:10pm.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Lopez introduced LAPD Senior Lead Officer Stephen Nichols. Officer Nichols is the Senior Lead for the Industrial District. Lopez informed the Board that Officer Nichols would be attending the Board meetings on a monthly basis to give LAPD updates. Lopez mentioned that Officer Nichols is a former narcotics officer.

Lopez then introduced Celina Mancia, Field Deputy for CD14. Mancia informed the Board that she's been with CD 14 for 1 ½ years, and her territory includes Boyle Heights and Downtown Los Angeles. Mancia stated that she took over for former CD14

field deputy for the Downtown L.A. area, Irantzu Pujadas, and will be working on land use and public safety issues, as well as economic development.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

H. Klein made a motion to approve the December 9, 2008 minutes, and Rauch seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

IV. FINANCE

Coelho reported that there is cash at year-end in both Toy and DID. Toy, after estimating accrued expenses, should finish the year with approx. \$20,000 cash.

DID, after estimating accrued expenses and accrued income, should finish the year with approx. \$108,000 cash.

Coelho also informed the Board that DID issued an invoice for approx. \$15,000 to the City for delinquent funds from September 2008.

Vert asked where BID renewal expenses are allocated. Coelho informed the Board that DID places BID renewal expenses as a current asset of the BID, and when the new BID is established, the expenses will be reimbursed.

Rauch asked if the line of credit will be needed. Coelho informed the Board that the line of credit is currently not needed.

Coelho reported that delinquencies in DID total approx. \$78,000; and \$8,800 in Toy.

V. DID BID RENEWAL

Lopez reported that the City Clerk will be issuing final approval for the management district plan, and once the approval is obtained, petitions will be mailed to the property owners.

Lopez informed the Board that a notice of renewal letter was sent to the property owners; sixty came back as undeliverable

addresses. Staff is in the process of obtaining updated mailing information for the returned mail. Lopez stated that staff will send an updated list of property owners to the Board for possible identification.

Lopez reported that staff identified property owners who will vote yes on renewing the BID, which totals 39%, however, the BID must cross 50% to renew. Lopez stated that after the petition phase the ballot process begins, which is the final vote. Lopez stated to the Board that she may need their assistance in speaking to fellow property owners.

VI. OPERATIONS

DID-

McCormick reported that the month of December was filled with various issues throughout the Industrial District. Bulky items increased in December due to the holidays, as well as drinking in public, drug activity and encampments. However, blocking the sidewalk decreased.

McCormick informed the Board that compared to 2007, there were 3,400 more incidents in 2008.

McCormick reported that the number of trash bags collected increased in the Industrial District in December, however, in comparison to 2007, the amount of trash bags collected decreased overall, for the year.

184 bulky items were removed in December. The amount of graffiti removed increased in 2008.

McCormick reported that 2007/2008 numbers are consistent. Illegal vending has decreased thanks to LAPD Senior Lead Officer Earl Wright and the LAPD task force.

Toy-

McCormick reported that in December 2008, 5,064 bags of trash were collected out of the 13-blocks Toy District, compared to 2,000 collected in 44-blocks Industrial District.

McCormick reported that incidents of blocking the sidewalk in the Toy District increased. Lopez informed the Board that she and McCormick met with Central Area Captain Wall to discuss the issues of blocking the sidewalk and to get a handle on the issue. According to Wall LAPD enforces against blocking of driveways or doorways, which is permissible under the Jones decision. As long as people break down their encampments and their belongings are against the wall not blocking doorways or driveways, however, there is nothing police can do. That would not be considered a violation under the Jones decision.

Lopez informed the Board that she submitted an inquiry to the City Attorney's office regarding such "blocking the sidewalk" issues, citing that the Jones decision did not address the potential for daylong blocking of sidewalks after encampments are broken down at 6am.

Senior Lead Officer Stephen Nichols informed the Board that most people have the perception that loitering is a crime, but it is not. It is only a crime when illegal substances are involved. Officer Nichols also stated that 4118D allows people to stand on the sidewalks but not lie.

The Board then discussed vending enforcement and public safety risks for BID public safety officers.

CCEA Check-In Center-

McCormick informed the Board that there is a different population utilizing the Check-In Center. The new population includes people who have been affected by the economy and are now homeless. Families, including small children, now utilize the personal property storage facility.

McCormick stated that she will be closing the Check-In Center for a few hours to reorganize, in hopes of making space for more storage bins, because the demand have increased significantly. There are currently 500 bins, and the facility is open seven days per week.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Lopez stated that there is a good chance that the Central City East DASH route will be cancelled due to a lack of ridership. Brehm is working on additional marketing ideas and will be reporting at the next meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT- The meeting of the Board was adjourned at 1:10pm.